



# GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture



NOVEMBER 21, 2000

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## **To Our Readers:**

*There may be no better time than Thanksgiving to remember the good fortune provided to our Nation by its strong agricultural sector. Our society has evolved and advanced to an era where we have become accustomed to, and have often taken for granted, a constant and relatively inexpensive supply of food products, readily available and prepared and packaged to meet the needs and desires of many. Advances in processing and marketing may be largely attributed to the well-established food companies, with their emphasis in research and a clever awareness of consumer needs. However, the abundant, and consistent high-quality supply of raw agricultural products must be attributed to the hard work, determination and life-long perseverance of our Nation's farmers.*

*Comprising a mere 2.4 percent of the U.S. population, America's roughly 3.75 million farmers, continue to provide a wide array of raw products, not only domestically, but to numerous world markets. The agriculture sector is a leading force in helping to decrease or at least manage our Nation's trade deficit. Compared to the negative trade balance of manufactured goods, U.S. agriculture has, since the early 1960's consistently boasted a positive foreign trade balance.*

*It can be said that this important role of U.S. agriculture, both domestically and internationally, is often forgotten as consumers scan the multitude of choices on supermarket shelves this Thanksgiving. It is also interesting to note that the cost of a typical Thanksgiving dinner for 10 people actually decreased from \$33.83 during to 1999 to \$32.37 this year, based on a recent survey conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation. It is a decrease that may, unfortunately, go unnoticed by the average American consumer.*

*It is also an opportune time to be thankful for an excellent distribution system, efficiently and effectively providing agricultural products to domestic and international markets. Our transportation system also plays an integral role in maintaining the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace.*

*In closing, please accept our sincerest wishes for a happy Thanksgiving.*

*Sincerely,*

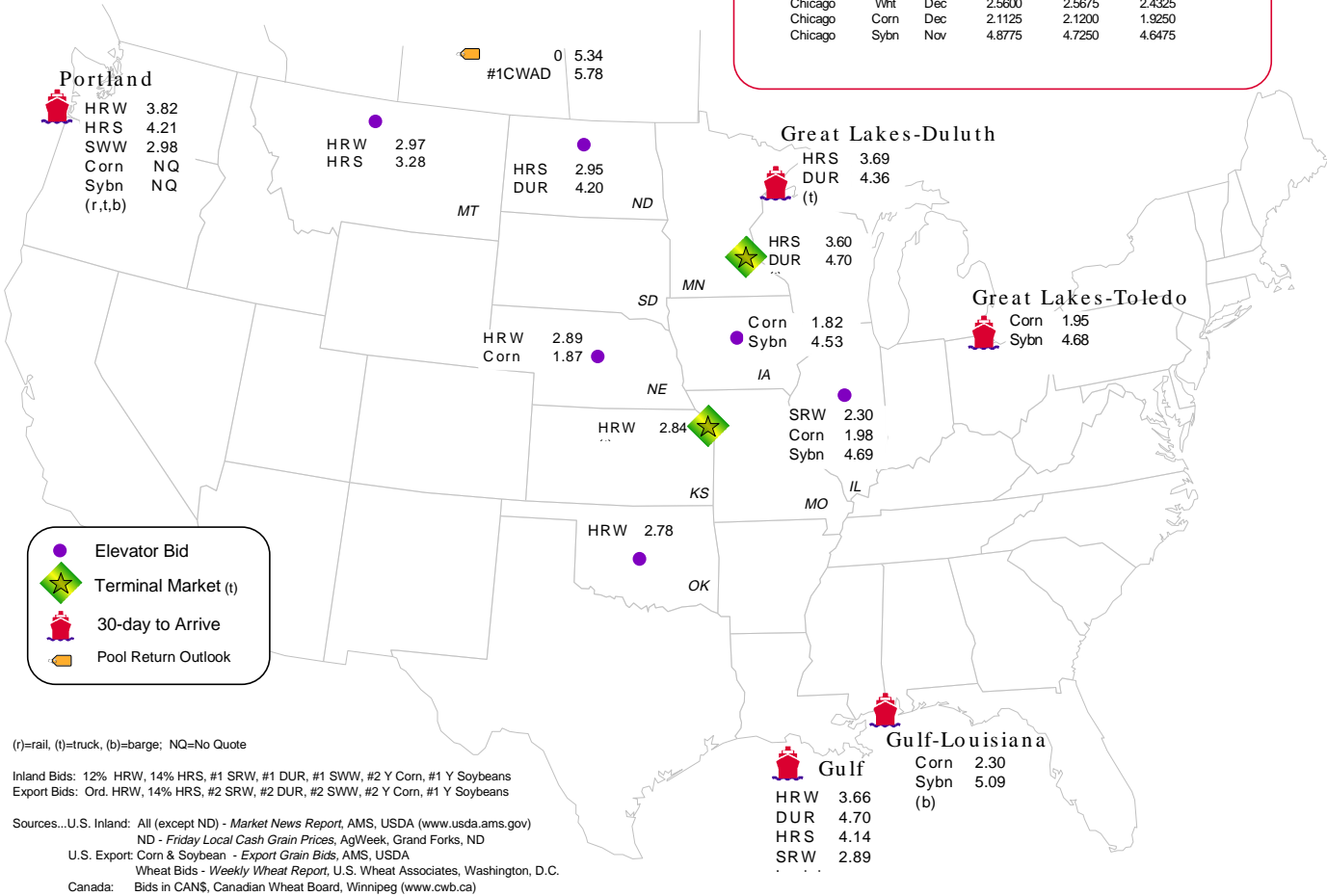
**Karl Hacker**  
**Tel: 202-690-0152**

**Sigal Nissan**  
**Tel: 202-690-1335**

Report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Sigal Nissan, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. This report can be found on the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm). E-mail comments to [GTR@usda.gov](mailto:GTR@usda.gov).

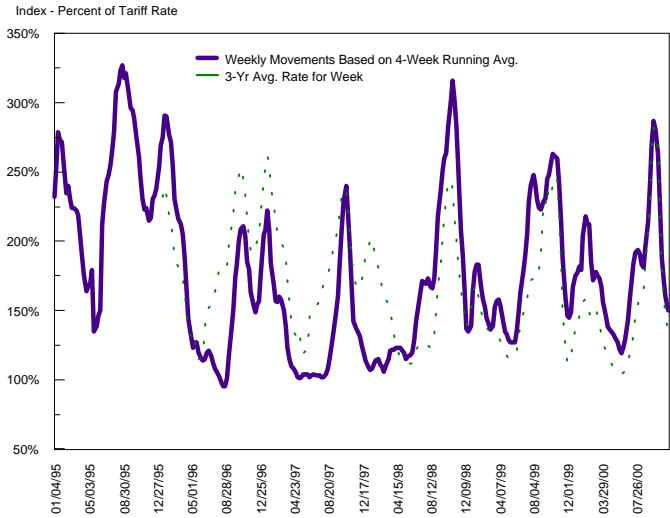
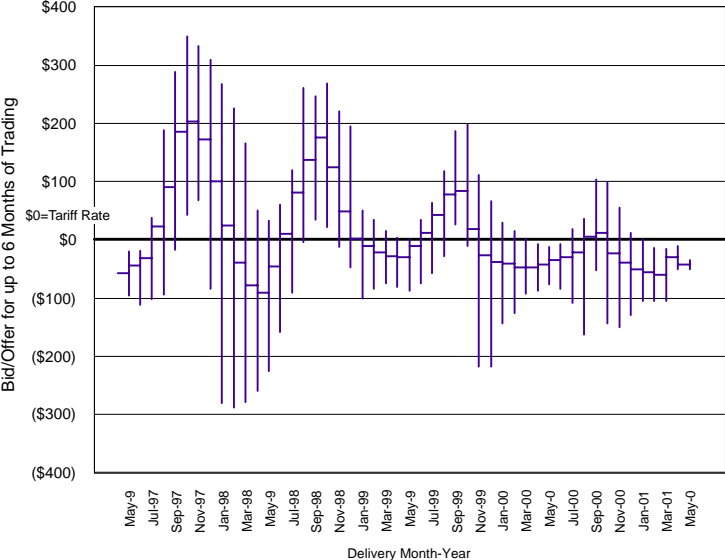
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Grain Bid Summary



Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River

Secondary Rail Market Bids



**Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings**

Delivery for:	Dec-00		Feb-01	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	12,540	16%	12,141	1%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,400	2%	5,400	0%

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com

**Secondary Rail Car Market**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	<b>Delivery Period</b>			
	Dec-00	Jan-01	Feb-01	Mar-01
BNSF-GF	\$12	\$(11)	\$(14)	\$(16)
UP-Pool	\$(24)	\$(38)	\$(38)	\$(39)

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;  
GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

**Railroad Car 'Auction' Results**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Jan-01	Feb-01	Mar-01
COT/N. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 4	no bid	no bid	no bid

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com),  
(COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)

**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values**

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

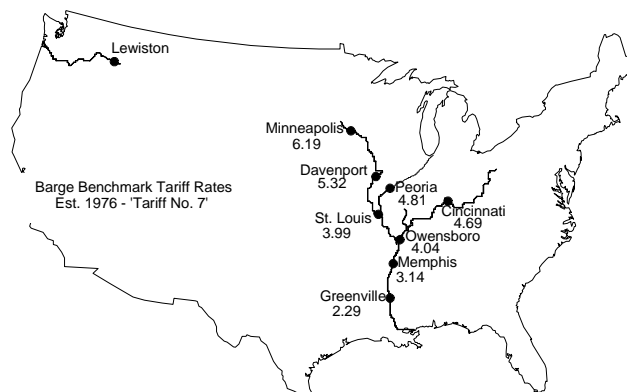
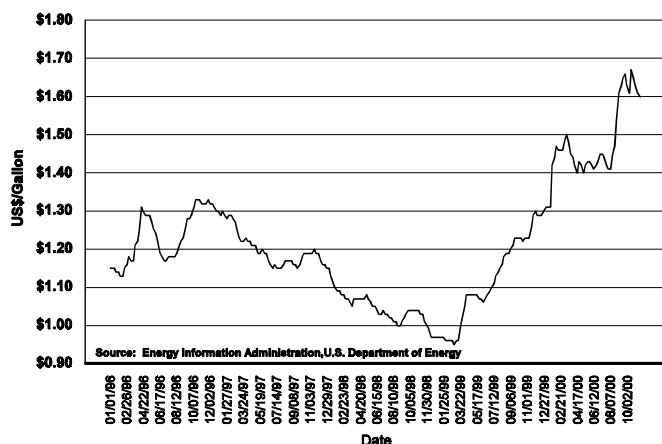
Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	<b>Rate</b>	
			Bid	Offer
11/21/00	St. Louis	twk	110	115*
		nwk	115*	120
		Dec.	120	125
		Dec.-Mar.	125	135
	Illinois River	twk	135*	140
		nwk	140*	145
		1 <sup>st</sup> half Dec.	145	150
		Dec.	150	160*
	Ill. (Pekin-South)	Jan.	170	175
	Mid Miss.	Nov.	135	135
	Lower Ohio	Dec.	135	140
		Dec-Mar.	140	145

**Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates**

	11/15/00	11/8/00	Dec. '00	Feb. '00
Twin Cities	201	214	0	0
Mid-Mississippi	150	180	0	0
Illinois River	132	154	158	180
St. Louis	120	138	130	129
Lower Ohio	134	185	143	143
Cairo-Memphis	116	128	122	125

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA  
nq=no quote;

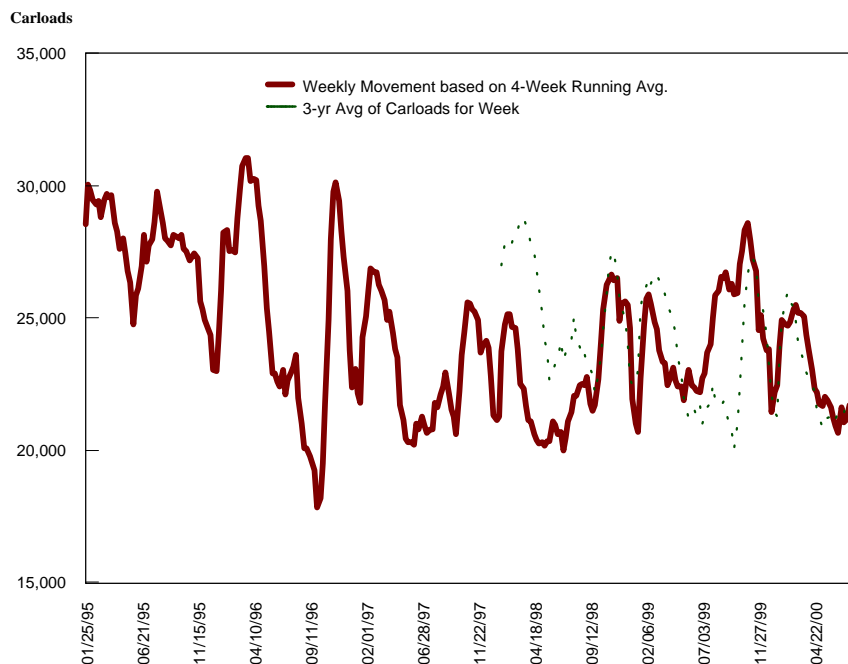
Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

**Weekly Retail Diesel (Road) Prices (Including Taxes)**

## Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
10/28/00	24,733
11/04/00	23,674
11/11/00	21,687
Year to Date - 2000	1,052,586
Year to Date - 1999	1,110,701
Total 1999	1,269,741
Total 1998	1,186,117

Source: Association of American Railroads



## Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Grain Carloads Originated

			<u>East</u>		<u>West</u>		<u>Canada</u>	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN CP
11/11/00	0	3,355	0	2,943	8,369	468	6,552	4,132 4,356
This Week Last Year	0	3,094	1,733	2,931	10,226	669	7,880	2,957 4,157
2000 YTD	0	127,783	70,155	134,522	371,149	24,066	324,911	131,246 209,929
1999 YTD	15,522	113,049	77,944	119,598	404,990	29,706	350,892	102,069 180,246
1999 Total	15,522	132,157	88,056	138,379	465,088	33,911	398,262	121,381 206,328
1998 Total	40,192	126,128	77,811	131,158	431,459	34,503	342,609	113,568 215,005

Source: Association of American Railroads

## Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

November 2000

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
11/06/00	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$22.60	\$0.62
11/06/00	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,877	\$42.74	\$1.16
11/06/00	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,650	\$18.19	\$0.50
11/06/00	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,240	\$46.74	\$1.27
11/06/00	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,905	\$43.04	\$1.17
11/06/00	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,900	\$31.97	\$0.81
11/06/00	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,700	\$29.76	\$0.76
11/06/00	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,700	\$29.76	\$0.76
11/06/00	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,680	\$29.54	\$0.80
11/06/00	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,430	\$26.79	\$0.73
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat &amp; Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

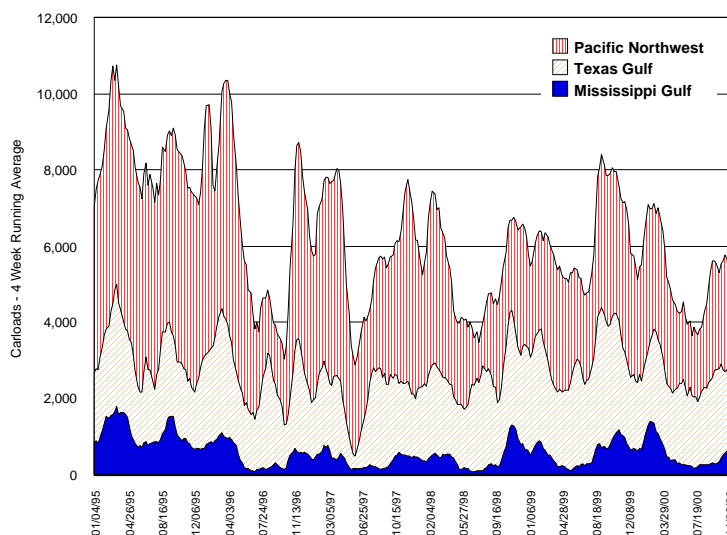
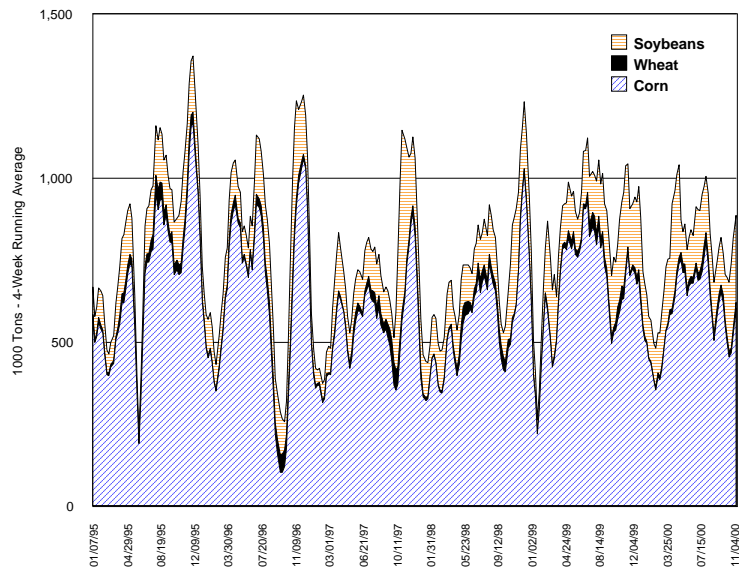
**Rail Deliveries to Port****Carloads**

	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
10/11/00	655*	2,534	3,501	632
10/18/00	600*	1,730	2,964	389
10/25/00	558*	2,114	3,339	633
11/01/00	640*	2,190	1,812**	826
11/08/00	231*	1,683	2,694**	455
11/15/00	106*	1,647*	2,038	519
YTD 2000	24,102*	95,508	118,605	13,285
YTD 1999	25,984	120,453	142,243	13,284
Total 1998	23,844	115,321	138,461	12,505
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing/AMS/USDA

(\*) Incomplete Data

(\*\*) Revised Data

**Rail Deliveries to Port****Barge Movements - Locks 27****Barge Grain Movements**

for week ending 11/11/00

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	463	5	80	564
Winfield, MO (L25)	514	8	166	702
Alton, IL (L26)	703	16	253	985
Granite City, IL (L27)	726	16	245	1,000
Illinois River (L8)	149	2	41	192
Ohio (L52)	123	27	188	397
Arkansas (L1)	0	7	1	8
2000 YTD	29,109	2,209	8,893	41,745
1999 YTD	32,075	2,576	8,049	45,017
Total 1999	36,711	2,883	9,771	51,887
Total 1998	31,001	2,401	8,674	45,134

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.  
Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; n/a=not available

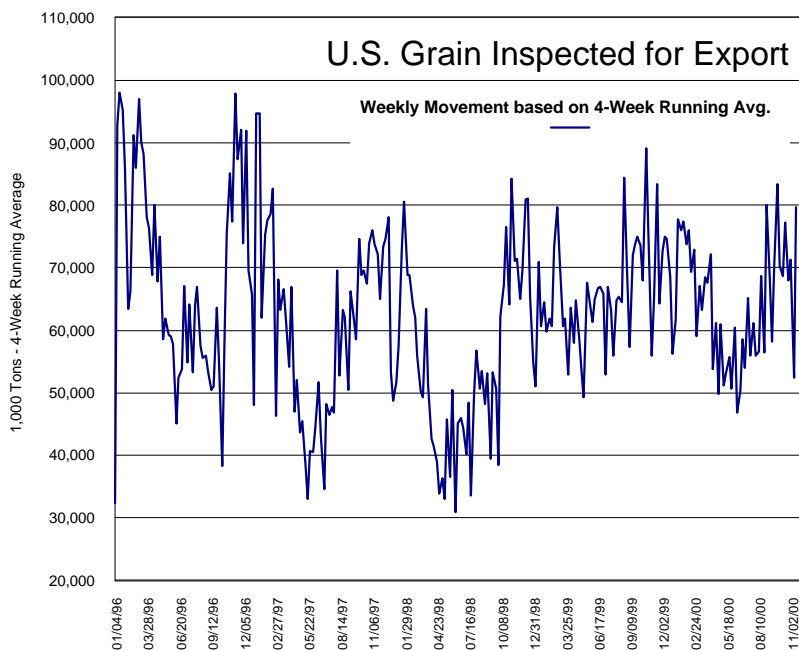
**U.S. Export Balances** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
11/09/00	1,225	370	971	874	339	3,779	6,622	5,757	16,158
This Week Year Ago	1,234	654	845	512	203	3,449	8,756	5,586	17,791
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
99/00 YTD	4,568	2,330	2,436	2,227	546	12,108	9,654	6,244	28,006
98/99 YTD	5,884	1,810	2,495	1,811	423	12,424	10,254	17,713	40,391
97/98 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
96/97 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date ([www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov)) Crop Year:Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
11/16/00	279	84	171	114	743	546	168	6	0
2000 YTD	8,648	5,596	1,510	6,010	31,425	15,225	6,355	419	962
1999 YTD *	8,758	7,863	896	6,117	31,314	12,221	7,839	545	1,284
% of Last Year	80%	128%	232%	119%	100%	102%	87%	74%	69%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service \* YTD-Year-to-Date (\*98 = 53 week period)

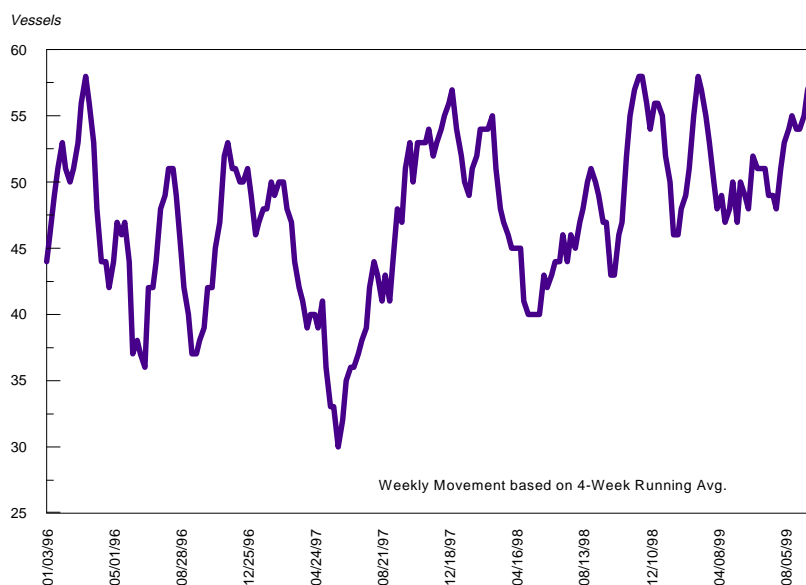
**Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections**

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 11/16/00			
Vancouver	2,183	154	256
Prince Rupert	51		0
Prairie Direct	331	79	59
Thunder Bay	386	116	4
St. Lawrence	1,090	713	0
2000 YTD Exports	4,041	1,062	335
1999 YTD Exports	3,456	1,141	285
% of Last Year	117%	93%	118%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission

YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



**Gulf Region  
Vessels Loaded  
- Past 7 Days-**

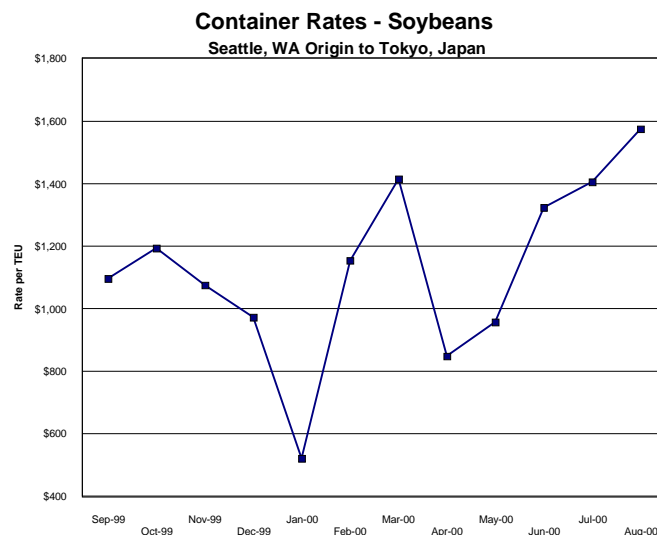
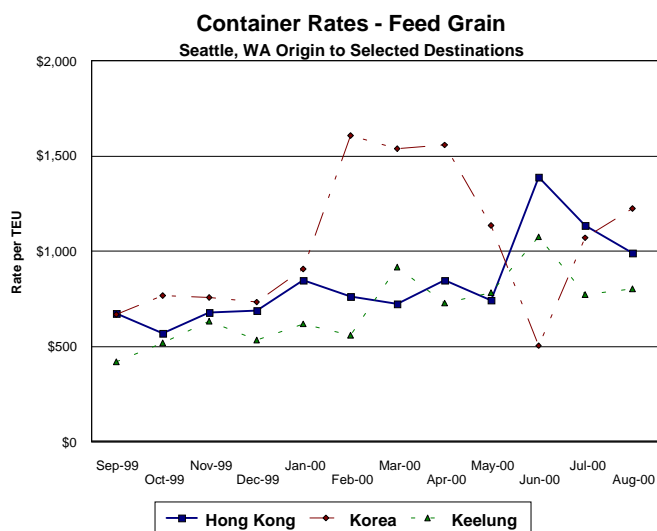
### Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
11/09/00	47	45	64	11			13	9	6
11/16/00	38	57	74	14			16	8	0
1999 Range	(14..47)	(39..65)	(34..80)	(6..18)			(2..20)	(2..15)	(0..9)
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)				(1..19)	(3..14)	(0..10)
1999 Avg	32	52	65				9	9	3
1998 Avg	40	48	61				10	9	3
1997 Avg	33	45	58						

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA

### Container Ocean Freight Rates

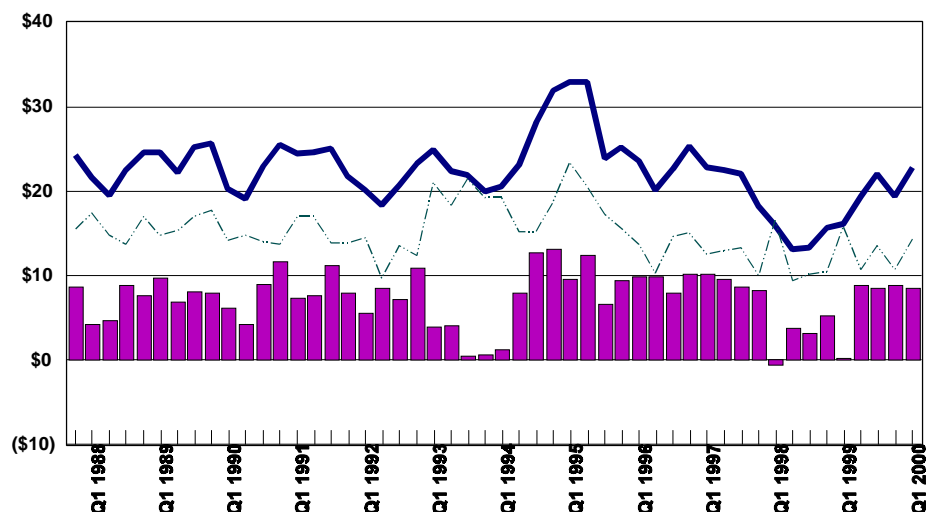
Monthly Weighted Averages Based on Shipping Line Monthly Mkt. Share



Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA

— Rate - Gulf to Japan  
 - - - Rate - PNW to Japan  
 ■ Spread - Gulf vs. PNW to Japan

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean  
Freight Rates

### Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	2000 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	1999 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	% Change		2000 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	1999 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$24.76	\$19.46	27%	Japan	\$15.43	\$10.71	44%
Mexico	\$16.11	\$14.97	8%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea	\$29.03		
Venezuela	\$15.13	\$12.64	20%				
N. Europe	\$18.07	\$13.31	36%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$34.19	\$18.20	88%	N. Europe	\$18.62	\$13.94	34%
				Japan	\$36.42	\$23.00	58%

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA; (\*) rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs.=one metric ton)

### Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 11/18/00

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
St. Lawrence	Iran	Wheat	Nov.25/Dec.5	60,000	\$20.50
Pt. Cartier (Can.)	Iran (op 2 Pts.)	Wheat	Dec.1/10	60,000	\$21.00op\$22.00
Baltimore	Rotterdam	Heavy Grain	Spot	60,000	\$13.00
Gulf	Egypt	Wheat	Dec.1/10	55,000	\$14.50
Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	Spot	55,000	\$21.50
Vancouver (Can.)	Spain	Hvy Grain/Wht.	Nov.29/Dec.4	55,000	\$21.00
Brazil	Lisbon/Hamburg	Grains	Nov.18/25	29,000	\$17.93
Parana River	Spain	Grains	Nov.16/22	26,000	\$18.75
River Plate	Denmark	Grains	Nov.16/25	30,000	\$21.75
River Plate	Yemen	Grains	Nov.10/20	25,000	\$35.30

Source: Maritime Research Inc.; rates shown are for long ton (2,240 lbs.=one long ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicated; op=option